

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LISBON 08561 131741Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 ACDA-07
/066 W

----- 112317 /71

R 131629Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9506
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
/AMCONSUL OPORTO 1082
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 8561

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PINT, PO
SUBJ: SOUSA E CASTRO ON CURRENT POLITICAL SCENE

SUMMARY: IN A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, REVOLUTIONARY
COUNCIL MEMBER CPT SOUSA E CASTRO CALLED ATTENTION TO
THE DEADENING IMPACT UPON ARMED FORCES MORALE OF A
PROMOTION SLOWDOWN WITHIN THE OFFICER CORPS. SOUSA
E CASTRO'S COMMENTS ON THE POLITICAL ROLE OF PRESIDENT
EANES REINFORCE THE VIEW THAT THE PRESIDENT IS FULLY
AWARE OF THE PITFALLS OF POWER. END SUMMARY.

1. IN A DEC 9 CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, REVOLUTIONARY
COUNCIL MEMBER CPT SOUSA E CASTRO COMMENTED CANDIDLY
ON THE DEADENING IMPACT WITHIN THE OFFICER CORPS
OF A VIRTUAL HALT IN PROMOTION OPPORTUNITIES AT THE
MIDDLE LEVEL. SOUSA E CASTRO ALSO COMMENTED ON
THE POLITICAL ROLE OF PRESIDENT EANES. HIGHLIGHTS
OF SOUSA E CASTRO'S COMMENTS INCLUDED:

-- THE CAREER BOTTLENECK: DEMOBILIZATION FROM THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LISBON 08561 131741Z

COLONIAL WARS AND REORIENTATION OF THE ARMED FORCES

HAS HAD A DISASTROUS IMPACT UPON PROMOTION PROSPECTS, PARTICULARLY FOR MIDDLE-GRADE OFFICERS. THE ANTIQUATED PROMOTION SYSTEM CONTINUES TO OPERATE LARGELY ON THE BASIS OF SENIORITY. THE RESULT: A SERIOUS MORALE PROBLEM WITHIN THE OFFICER CORPS.

-- THE PRESIDENT AS MODERATOR: THE PRESIDENT MUST PRESERVE THE PRESTIGE OF HIS OFFICE. HE MUST CHART A PATH BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION. THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE HAVE AN UNFORTUNATE TENDENCY TO LOOK TO THE STRONG MAN TO SAVE THEM FROM UNPLEASANTNESS. THE CHALLENGE IS TO MAKE THE NEW POLITICAL STRUCTURES WORK. DIRECT INTERVENTION IN AREAS OF GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY WOULD BE MISINTERPRETED IT WOULD ENCOURAGE THE RIGHT. THUS FAR THE PRESIDENT HAS HANDLED HIMSELF EXTREMELY WELL.

-- NO COALITION NOW: THE GOVERNMENT SUFFERS FROM THE NARROWNESS OF ITS BASE. BUT AN ATTEMPT TO FORCE A COALITION NOW WOULD FAIL. A PS-PSD COALITION IS NOT POSSIBLE; A PSD-CDS COALITION WOULD NOT WORK; A PS-PCP IS UNTHINKABLE. IN CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES, THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE TO THE SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT.

-- CANTO E CASTRO LIES: THE FLAP OVER RC MEMBER CANTO E CASTRO'S MEETING IN BRUSSELS WITH FNLA LEADER HOLDEN ROBERTO WAS COMPLETELY AVOIDABLE, CANTO E CASTRO BROUGHT IT UPON HIMSELF BY NOT TELLING THE TRUTH. WHEN THE PRESIDENT CONFRONTED HIM WITH THE EVIDENCE, CANTO E CASTRO ADMITTED THAT THE MEETING HAD TAKEN PLACE.

-- EVOLVING RC ROLE: THE COUNCIL'S PRINCIPAL FUNCTION IS COUNSELOR TO THE PRESIDENT. THIS ADVISORY ROLE IS PERFORMED COLLECTIVELY AND NOT BY INDIVIDUAL RC MEMBERS. THE RC ALSO SERVES AS A BUFFER FOR THE PRESIDENT IN HIS RELATIONS WITH OTHER POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS. AN EXAMPLE IS THE RC CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW FUNCTION WHICH GIVES THE PRESIDENT A READY VEHICLE FOR CHALLENGING LEGISLATION WITHOUT A DIRECT CONFRONTATION WITH EITHER THE ASSEMBLY OR THE GOVERNMENT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LISBON 08561 131741Z

2. COMMENT: SOUSA E CASTRO'S CANDID COMMENTS ON THE DEADENING IMPACT OF THE PROMOTION SLOWDOWN WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES HIGHLIGHT A SIGNIFICANT MORALE PROBLEM WHICH CHALLENGES COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF EANES'S EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN ARMED FORCES COHESION. SUCH PROFESSIONAL CONCERNS, IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED, WERE THE GENESIS OF THE CAPTAINS

MOVEMENT WHICH SPAWNED THE APRIL 1974 COUP.
WHILE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT
REMOVES AN EXTERNAL RALLYING POINT FOR ORGANIZATION
OF DISSIDENCE WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES, FESTERING DIS-
CONTENT AMONG THE MIDDLE GRADE OFFICERS LIKE SOUSA
E CASTRO BEARS CLOSE WATCHING. SOUSA E CASTRO'S
CONCERNS UNDERLINE THE URGENCY OF THE ARMED FORCES
MODERNIZATION PROGRAM.

3. SOUSA E CASTRO'S COMMENTS ON THE POLITICAL ROLE
OF PRESIDENT EANES ARE ENCOURAGING. THEY
REINFORCE THE VIEW THAT EANES -- AS PRESIDENT, AS
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, AND AS HEAD OF THE REVOLUTIONARY
COUNCIL -- IS IN FULL CONTROL BUT AWARE OF THE
PITFALLS OF POWER.
CARLUCCI

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, PARTY LEADERS, POLITICAL SITUATION, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LISBON08561
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X4
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760459-0899
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761249/aaaabpzb.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <07 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUSA E CASTRO ON CURRENT POLITICAL SCENE SUMMARY: IN A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEMBER CPT SOUSA E CASTRO CALLED ATTE NTION
TAGS: PINT, PO, US, (E CASTRO, SOUSA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006